

itself in at least three forms: undercounts (failure to correctly record a choice of candidate), overcounts (voting for two candidates), and missed ballots (machine failure or feeding error). Punch cards and optically scanned ballots are two of the most widely used technologies, and both suffer unacceptably high error rates in all three categories. For example, in the recent Florida election, optical scanning technology had an undercount rate of approximately 3 out of 1,000, and the punch card undercount rate was approximately 15 out of 1,000. Including the other two sources of errors, the overall ballot failure rate with machine counting was about three times this.

"Second, some of the most common types of machinery date from the late nineteenth century and have become obsolete. Most notably, many models of lever machines are no longer manufactured, and although spare parts are difficult to obtain, they are still widely used (accounting for roughly 15 percent of all ballots cast).

REPLACING LEVER MACHINES

"States and municipalities using lever machines will have to replace them in the near future, and the two most common alternatives are punch cards and optical scanning devices. Ironically, many localities in Massachusetts have recently opted for lever machines over punch card ballots because of problems with punch cards registering preferences."

Asked to comment on the project as scientists, both university presidents noted the convergence of history and technology as being especially promising for the development of a new voting machine. "This is a project we could have tackled any time, but the truly bizarre circumstances of the recent presidential election put it on the front burner. We are also at a technological point where a solution is highly likely," said Dr. Vest. "There are times when events overtake us. This is a good time and a necessary time to be doing this," said Dr. Baltimore.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the California Institute of Technology have a relationship dating back to 1920 when MIT scientists' helped shape the chemistry and physics departments of the new California Institute of Technology. Dr. Baltimore, a 1975 Nobel laureate, served on the MIT faculty from 1968-90 and 1994-1997, when he was appointed president of Caltech.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS PROCEDURES ACT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, even at the dawn of the twenty-first century, there are many states and localities that conduct their elections in ways that are outdated, slow, unreliable, inaccurate, and inaccessible to many.

One need not look further than the turmoil surrounding the 2000 Presidential election to see the disparities of our electoral process. For instance, while some counties in Florida have modern voting machines that leave little room for error, others use dated punch-card ballots, that can lead to the now-famous hanging and dimpled chads.

That is why I rise to introduce the "Commission on Elections Procedures Act," which es-

tablishes a bipartisan commission to study the Federal, State, and local electoral process and to make recommendations on the implementation of standardized voting procedures.

The long national nightmare of the 2000 Presidential vote counting has taught us, Republicans and Democrats alike, that we need to improve the instruments of voting and the means of electing our office holders. Even the Supreme Court Justices spoke of the need for uniform voting procedures.

Let me be clear: unlike some legislation that has been introduced in this regard, this is not a federal mandate of election standards. This bill simply calls for a study to determine if standardization is necessary and to recommend what changes can be made to improve our electoral process.

I understand that a rural state like North Dakota has voting problems that are different than those faced by a more urban state like New Jersey. Urban and rural areas have unique difficulties with voting. My legislation recognizes these differences and will work to find a common solution. While all areas could face problems of the cost of transition to a new system, I am confident that money can be found to assist the states in this area.

By establishing a commission to study the issue and to review the unique circumstances of each state, we have a chance to find a solution that will work for everyone.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important bill.

RECOGNIZING INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE VOLUNTEER

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, on December 5th, I spoke to volunteers and staff at the Peace Corps headquarters here in Washington, D.C. to mark the International Day of the Volunteer. In 1985, the United Nations General Assembly declared December 5th as "International Volunteer Day" to honor the accomplishments of volunteers and volunteer organizations. It is a day to recognize volunteers, promote the concept of volunteerism, and provide an opportunity for volunteer organizations to come together for joint planning, service, and other activities.

Today I'd like to salute the 161,000 Americans who have served as volunteers in the Peace Corps since 1961. For 40 years, Peace Corps Volunteers have worked in over 130 countries to answer President John F. Kennedy's call to service: "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country, and to the citizens of the world, ask not what America can do for you, but what we can do working together for the freedom of mankind." Volunteers have answered his call and helped pave the way for progress for countless individuals who want to build a better life for themselves, their children, and their communities.

This year, Peace Corps Volunteers, Trainees, and Peace Corps staff members will be participating in activities with other local and

international volunteer organizations in their countries to mark this day, which takes on special significance this year as the launch for the United Nations International Year of Volunteers 2001—a world-wide celebration to recognize, support, and promote volunteering. In Lesotho, a Peace Corps volunteer will speak at a ceremony attended by members of the government. In Tanzania, there will be a special swearing-in ceremony of new volunteers. In Moldova, volunteers will raise funds for children's charities. In Washington, Peace Corps staff from headquarters will volunteer at Food and Friends to help deliver meals and groceries to families of people living with HIV/AIDS.

In honor of the International Year of Volunteers 2001, other international volunteer sending organizations such as Australian Volunteers International, Canada World Youth, United Nations Volunteers, and the United Kingdom's Voluntary Services Overseas are joining with the Peace Corps to make a commitment to expand their HIV/AIDS education efforts throughout the world.

Throughout the world, and particularly Africa, HIV/AIDS is having a devastating effect on people of all ages by threatening the future of development and well being of their communities. This year the Peace Corps launched a special initiative to retrain all 2,400 volunteers serving in Africa to become HIV/AIDS prevention educators. In a sign of solidarity and support, the leaders of Australian Volunteers International, Canada World Youth, United Nations Volunteers and the United Kingdom's Voluntary Services Overseas have joined with the Peace Corps in committing the best and most effective strategies to meet the enormous challenge of halting the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Today, I commend the Peace Corps and other volunteer organizations for being committed to spreading the concept of volunteerism. In honor of International Volunteer Day and the International Year of Volunteers 2001, it is my privilege to salute the important work of the Peace Corps and volunteers throughout the world.

FUNDRAISING SOLICITATIONS BY NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

HON. ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to announce the introduction of legislation that will help clarify the law regarding fund-raising solicitations by nonprofit organizations. I also want to recognize the efforts of my colleagues, House Government Reform Chairman DAN BURTON and House Postal Service Subcommittee Chairman JOHN MCHUGH, for their leadership on postal service issues.

Mr. Speaker, as you may know, Congress recognized the many important and worthwhile activities of nonprofits by establishing a nonprofit mail rate for charities, churches, educational, advocacy, and other nonprofit organizations. These are enumerated in the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970. One of Congress'

objectives was to make it more affordable for nonprofits to solicit donations to fund their activities.

For a mail piece to be eligible for the lower nonprofit rate, Congress prescribed two requirements: first, the organization or mailer must be qualified to mail at the nonprofit rate; and second, the qualified organization must own the mail piece.

Over the last several years, the United States Postal Service, which has made great strides under Postmasters Runyon and Henderson, has increasingly applied the statutory standard of "ownership" in a way that may have a chilling effect on the use of nonprofit mail rates to solicit donations for charity, education, and advocacy.

The purpose of the bill I am introducing today is to clarify ambiguities existing in both law and Postal Service regulations with respect to fundraising. The bill clarifies the law so the Postal Service should not read the statutory "ownership" test so literally as to disqualify solicitation mail sent by otherwise eligible nonprofit organizations that negotiate a risk-sharing agreement with respect to their solicitation mail.

In my view, it is imperative that otherwise qualified nonprofit organizations be able to solicit donations at the lowest possible cost. When nonprofits conduct activities that further the purposes enumerated in the statute, for example to provide "safety net" social services, it eases the burden on government and taxpayers.

During a time in which Congress is attempting to allow taxpayers to keep more of their hard earned money, it would be advantageous for nonprofits to solicit individuals and families, who thanks to tax relief and their own individual initiative may have an extra few dollars to send to their favorite charity. Likewise, this Republican-led Congress is asking nonprofits to provide services the government has traditionally been ineffective or inefficient in providing.

Given this purpose, it would then be irrational for Congress to limit use of the nonprofit mail rate only to fundraising campaigns that raise donations sufficient to pay all solicitation costs. Otherwise qualified nonprofit organizations need to be able to negotiate the best deal they can for the professional fund-raising services the organization needs—whether it is creative, copyrighting, list analysis, mail piece introduction, or data entry.

It is important to point out the bill I am introducing is not a back door to allow unauthorized parties to mail at the nonprofit rate. Current law restricts an otherwise qualified organization from utilizing the nonprofit rate to sell goods or services. There are restrictions whether the item offered for sale is related to the organization's purpose or unrelated. Soliciting a donation, however, is different from promoting the sale of a product or service.

Furthermore, Congress has instituted reforms limiting a nonprofit's use of the special mail rate to sell products and services. The bill I am introducing today does not affect the reforms Alaska Senator TED STEVENS set in motion in the mid-1980s in this regard.

The bill also recognizes the subsequent reform Congress enacted to require sales promoted at the nonprofit rate to be "substantially

related" to the purpose for which the nonprofit qualified for the nonprofit rate.

More importantly, this bill does not limit the Postal Service's authority to enforce any other section of the federal postal statutes. Accordingly, the Postal Service retains all of its tools to discover and prosecute fraud—a mission that I strongly support.

The problem addressed by this bill is the Postal Service's present interpretation of the statutory "ownership" standard, which is causing litigation and inconsistent application in solicitation cases.

I am aware of the ongoing discussions within the Postal Service and with nonprofit organizations to resolve this issue. I remain hopeful the Postal Service can correct this issue without Congressional intervention. Hopefully, this bill will encourage all parties to continue their constructive dialogue and, perhaps, prevent further unnecessary litigation.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 5655 TO
DESIGNATE THE LANAI POST OFFICE,
THE GORO HOKAMA POST OFFICE

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, on December 13, 2000, I introduced H.R. 5655, to designate the Post Office on Lanai as the Goro Hokama Post Office.

Mr. Hokama has dedicated his life to the communities of Lanai and Maui and to the State of Hawaii. Mr. Hokama's leadership abilities and sense of public duty were apparent even in high school, where he was Student Body President. After serving two years in the Army, he returned to Lanai, and in 1954 he began his public service career which continues till this day. He worked for the Dole Pineapple Company from 1946 to 1991 and was a Member of the ILWU. He was elected by his union to serve on the International Executive Board, Division Executive Board and as a division representative steward, and served on the Membership Service Committee as well as actively participating on many negotiating teams.

Mr. Hokama has been involved in nearly every aspect of community life, everything from political offices to volunteering at Little League games. He served a total of 41 years on the Maui County Council and its predecessor, the Maui Board of Supervisors. He was Chairman of the Maui County Council for 16 years. He served as Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Committee on the Whole, Finance Committee, Legislative Committee, Planning and Land Use Committee, and Federal, State and County Relations Committee.

He was a member of the Hawaii State Association of Counties (HSAC), serving as President 11 times and Vice President 4 times. In 1999 he was appointed to the State Public Employees Appeals Board.

Mr. Hokama was a Board Member of the Western Interstate Region from 1985 to 1994.

Mr. Hokama has been President of the Lanai School PTA, a Lanai Volunteer Fireman,

Past Chairman of the Lanai Advisory to the Planning Commission, and was a past President of the Lanai Little League. In 1987, he won the Hawaii State Little League Baseball Outstanding Volunteer Award.

Mr. Hokama is currently the Chairman of the Maui County Hospital Management Advisory Committee and since 1998 has been Vice Chairman of the Maui Civil Service Commission. He also remains on the Board of Directors of the Maui Economic Opportunities, Inc., the Board of Trustees on both the Lanai Community Hospital and Maui Memorial Hospital, and has been President of the HAPCO. Lanai Federal Credit Union for over 30 years.

Goro Hokama has given himself, his time, and his life to our community and to our State. He is married and has two children, Riki and Joy. The naming of the Lanai Post Office as the Goro Hokama Post Office would be a way to honor and pay tribute to a great public servant.

HONORING WILLY AND THEKLA
(STEIN) NORDWIND OF KALAMAZOO,
MICHIGAN

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of the House of Representatives a very momentous event which occurred on September 25, 2000 and involved two constituents of mine: Willy and Thekla (Stein) Nordwind of Kalamazoo, Michigan.

After more than five decades of denials, avoidance and legal maneuvering, Germany—for the first time—returned to the rightful heirs, a major work of art previously confiscated by the Third Reich. On September 25, the Lovis Corinth painting, *Walchensee, Johannisnacht* (The Walchensee on Saint John's Eve) was returned to the heirs of Gustav and Clara Stein Kirstein in a ceremony which took place in the shadow of the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin. Thekla (Stein) Nordwind, niece of the Kirstein's, is the representative of the rightful heirs to whom the art was returned. Both Thekla (Stein) Nordwind and her husband, Willy Nordwind, were in Berlin for the ceremony.

As a result of this event, Ronald S. Lauder, Chairman of the World Jewish Congress' Commission for Art Recovery, stated, "After one year of negotiations, we hope this first step will correct some past injustices and that all works of art belonging to families of Holocaust victims will be returned. We will never forget the millions of lives that were broken or lost. We honor that memory by contributing to closing one of the darkest chapters in 20th-century cultural history."

Thekla (Stein) Nordwind said she accepted the painting, "Not only on behalf of the heirs of her aunt and uncle, but on behalf of so many others who want and need some acknowledgement and recognition of the devastation suffered by their families. Although no one can restore what was truly lost to so many families, the return of this painting is a symbol of the wish of the German Government to atone for the sins of the past."